

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

distributed computer operating in accordance with a distributed application program made up from user-modifiable event-driven component processes is disclosed. Known distributed computers of this type carry out the modification of processes at a single computer leading to a lack of robustness in the operation of the distributed computer as a whole. This problem is alleviated by providing each computer which runs a component (621) of the distributed application program with a component modification facility. The operation of the component (621) in reaction to the receipt of an event message is modified in accordance with policies stored in a database (623). In order to simplify the task of the user in writing such policies, a component details registry (627) is also provided which gives the names and parameters of procedures or methods offered by the component (621).